

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20410

Dear President Trump,

We are writing to express our concern with the lack of a transparent strategy for a COVID-19 vaccine and demand that you immediately provide an update that shows there is a strategy that prioritizes those in hotspots and those most vulnerable.

On July 21, 2020, Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing with five of the pharmaceutical companies working on a COVID-19 vaccine. When asked if a plan was in place to ensure the distribution of a vaccine is not just equitable but also actively prioritizes the hardest hit communities and those most at risk, most of companies deferred to the Administration saying that they were relying on a strategy from the federal government.¹

It is not a matter of if, but when, our country will produce a safe and efficacious vaccine for COVID-19. With over 4.7 million cases and over 157,000 deaths in the United States, our country continues to suffer from the devastating effects of a lack of a cohesive national strategy when it comes to testing.² Throughout this pandemic there has been a shortage of reagents, swabs, and pipette tips.³ We cannot allow this to happen again for a vaccine. We need to ensure that supply chains are in place and we are able to manufacture syringes, needles, vials, and everything needed to provide vaccines to the public. Delay in vaccine distribution should not again be tied to our inability to prepare.

Therefore, we are requesting a response to the following questions by August 14, 2020:

- 1) Is the Administration currently working on a vaccine distribution strategy in parallel with vaccine development?
- 2) What is the Administration's plan for ensuring an eventual vaccine is equitably distributed among states and localities?
- 3) What is the Administration's plan for ensuring an eventual vaccine is available, accessible, and affordable to those in hotspots, those most at risk and vulnerable, and the rest of the public?
- 4) What is the Administration's plan for ensuring an eventual vaccine is available, accessible, and affordable to communities of color and immigrant communities?

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnWwJPe7p2A&t=5820s>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

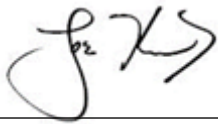
³ <https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/10/shortage-crucial-chemicals-us-coronavirus-testing/> ;
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/23/health/coronavirus-testing-supply-shortage.html>

- 5) What is the Administration's plan should new hotspots emerge during vaccine distribution and how will the distribution strategy adapt as case locations change?
- 6) What is the Administration doing to ensure supply chains are in place to manufacture all critical vaccine supplies?

We urge you to begin working with all stakeholders to proactively create a national vaccine strategy that ensures vaccines and the relevant material are available, affordable, and accessible to everyone and ensures that those most at risk, those you Administration has continued to overlook, are the first to receive a vaccine.

Thank you for your attention to these questions and we look forward to your prompt response.

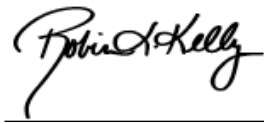
Sincerely,



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

CC: Robert Redfield, MD
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention